

HEART BROKE AS HE READ ERRING SON'S LAST PLEA

Veteran of Civil War
Found Dead, Holding
Convict's Letter.

WOULD NOT FORGIVE

Old Man Was Deaf to Appeals
for Pardon, Though he
Hoarded Them.

In a little cold room, containing merely the bed in which he slept, and with three painful letters of his erring and imprisoned son lying open on the blanket as though he had but a moment before read them, a battle-scarred veteran of the Civil War was found dead this morning in the lodging house at No. 17 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn. He died of a broken heart.

"In a prison cell at Danemora is the son whose letters of remorse, regret, and supplications for forgiveness, evidently broke the old man's heart as he sat in bed nursing them and caused him to drop back lifeless."

"Forgive me, dear father, for the errors of the past," one letter reads. "Forgive me for the sake of dear old mother. In my fancy I see her sitting under the old apple tree, with her arms about my neck, telling me the story of your sufferings and privations in the war. My heart is lacerated by the refusal of your pardon, and your refusal to correspond. Write once just to tell me you will forgive and forget, and I will be happy forever."

Could Not Forgive.

But no pardon from the old man will ever be received or was ever sent. To his end the old man was bitter against the son who is said to have written to the old man every month asking him to forgive and to write.

The old man was Dennis Feeley, who is about sixty. Few of the other lodgers knew him or of his past. None dreamt he had a son in Danemora.

Feeley was melancholy. Some sorrow seemed to always oppress him. He always had a few dollars. Where he worked the lodgers did not know. It was supposed he was a pensioner. He kept himself neat, despite the cheap quality of his clothes. He was a constant reader and seemingly well educated.

An employee of the place early this

morning found the old man lying, with one arm hanging over the side of the bed and the other just touching a letter. The face was livid. Fearing the old man was ill, the employees called a surgeon from the Long Island College Hospital. He said the man was dead; "He died of a broken heart," said the surgeon, as he finished reading one of the letters.

Letters from Son Treasured.

A policeman of the Amity street station took possession of a little leather bag that rested on the bed with the letters, and in which the letters had been kept. Projecting from the bag was the honorable discharge of the veteran. It read that he had served faithfully and honorably with the 10th New York Artillery Volunteers from Sept. 16, 1861, till Nov. 2, 1864. Below it was written, "Seriously wounded at Vicksburg."

In the bag were several other letters from the son. They indicated he had been originally sent to Sing Sing and had been transferred to Danemora. They dated back from last February. The latest read:

"My Dear Father:

"For a long while I have been sitting on the stool of expediency, positively hoping to hear from you. I have written you several letters, father, imploring forgiveness but you have not responded. I am very sorry. But I do not know why you certainly have had good reason for not writing. My escapades have added intensity to your scruples, added to the misery of your declining days."

"Please, father, you not to let the past remain—well, past, without. I sincerely hope you will forgive and open a new correspondence. Father, I have one more to write to you or even hand words of encouragement. You cannot realize how abandoned I am. I have not heard from you since my arrival here. Please, let between us always be my friend, my bestower, my old father again."

The clergymen called Policeman Gallagher, of the Butler street station, and ordered him to accompany him through the side door. They lined up at the bar and Rev. Mr. Morse commanded Gallagher to go upstairs with Hopkins, the bartender, long enough to allow the latter to put on his street clothes.

While they were gone the minister seized two brimming glasses of "evidence," and on the return of the two ordered Gallagher to carry the glasses to the station-house.

"Don't you dare spit, drop or I'll prefer charges against you for deliberately trying to destroy evidence of said minister, who is a man of honor,"

Gallagher walked as though on eggshells, hardly daring to breathe for fear of losing his job. On the way they passed the Adams street station, the streets which seemed to be enjoying prosperity, and the minister wanted to stop and turn on another raid, but Gallagher protested that his hands were full of orders and that he would be at a disadvantage.

At the station-house Rev. Mr. Morse took the emergency steps he helped take up the second place changes, and he preferred. When the minister and the cop got back to the place, strange to relate, the closest of confidences was given as the case of death.

Burke lived at the Mills Hotel No. 1. He was identified by one of the crowd that collected out of curiosity. The body was removed to the police station,

Frank Burch, a middle-aged man, employed as an addresser by a publishing house at No. 65 Fifth avenue, fell unconscious on the sidewalk at Bleeker street and West Broadway to-day. He died before the arrival of a St. Vincent's Hospital ambulance.

Patriot Frank Ayres, of the Mercury street station, said Burke staggered along the sidewalk, then collapsed.

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